

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held on Thursday 9th January 2020
in the Small Room of the Community Centre, Broad Drove East, Tydd St Giles.

Present - Cllr M Hale-Smith (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M Carter, Cllr T Doyle, Cllr H Hillam, Cllr J Maxwell, Cllr G Minney, Cllr S King (CCC), D Gibbs (Clerk), Mr & Mrs Grainger, Mr Luck, Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Ross, Mrs Simpson (Parishioners)

Apologies for Absence - Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

Public Forum

Mrs Simpson challenged the Council to be more transparent and to work with the community for the benefit of the people of Tydd St Giles. She looked forward to a new relationship with the Council.

Mrs Ross asked for clarification of the relationship between the Parish Council, the Community Centre charity and the Brigstock & Wrens charity. The Clerk explained that these were three separate organisations operating completely independently of each other, but that in a small community, it is inevitable that some people may hold office in more than one organisation.

Mr Grainger outlined the difficulties he had faced with alleviating flooding in his garden, due to an overgrown dyke. The Chairman reminded him that the Council has no statutory powers in this regard, but agreed to visit him to discuss the problem in more detail.

055/19 Election of Chairman and signing of declaration of acceptance

Cllr Maxwell was nominated by Cllr Hale-Smith, seconded by Cllr Doyle and duly elected. He signed his declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Clerk. Cllr Maxwell thanked Rex Mallett for his many years of devoted service, not only to the Parish Council, but to the village of Tydd St Giles.

056/19 Election of Vice Chairman and signing of declaration of acceptance (if required)

As Cllr Hale-Smith was not elected Chairman, no election was required for the role of Vice Chairman.

057/19 Urgent Items

There were no urgent matters.

058/19 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2019 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

059/19 Matters Arising

- a) Defibrillators - The Clerk confirmed that the training courses would take place on Saturday 18th January and invited members of the Council to attend.
- b) Local Highway Improvements - The Clerk will present the LHI bid for 2020/21 to the assessment panel on Wednesday 22nd January.
- c) Sapphire Close - The highway works are nearing completion. Members noted that cars have been observed parking in the passing lay-by.

- d) Sutton Bridge Power Fund - Cllr Hale-Smith advised members that he had submitted an application to join the local panel six months ago, but had heard nothing.
- e) Closure of the Churchyard - The Clerk advised members that the closure process had been delayed due to a change of staff at the Ministry of Justice, but should be completed shortly.

060/19 Police Matters

No report was received.

061/19 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr King congratulated Cllr Maxwell on his election as Chairman. He reported a few quiet weeks, due to the Christmas break. He confirmed that he would be a member of the LHI panel, but would not be able to comment upon the Tydd St Giles bid, or any others in his division. The County Council budget-setting process is ongoing. Cambridgeshire is still losing out on government funding, as the rural poverty of areas such as Fenland is offset by the wealth of the city of Cambridge. The Council is lobbying government, with other similar councils, for a rethink of the allocation of funding, especially for adult social care.

062/19 Fenland District Councillor Reports

In the absence of Cllrs Clark and Seaton, no report was received.

063/19 Parishioner Issues

A parishioner enquired about the possibility of erecting a speed camera where Hannath Road joins Kirkgate to slow vehicles entering the village. The new vehicle-activated sign will be placed in Kirkgate periodically, but further down the road. Monitoring speeding at the edge of the village would require a Speedwatch group to be established.

The effectiveness of the new buffer zone in Broad Drove East was questioned, but this will become clearer once the new vehicle-activated sign is positioned in this vicinity.

064/19 Agricultural Tenancies

The Chairman reported on discussions held with the tenants and with the Council's agent. A new six-year tenancy agreement will be prepared, subject to a review after the third year. Members resolved to instruct Maxey Grounds to prepare the agreement. The proposed increase to market rent will be phased over three years. Joint tenancies will be permitted to allow succession. Priority will be given to residents of Tydd St Giles or adjoining parishes. The new agreement will be shared with the tenants before signing.

065/19 Data Protection and the GDPR

The Clerk outlined the basic principles of the GDPR and issues that had arisen for other councils. Security of e-mail communications is a top priority and councils are advised to set up dedicated e-mail accounts for every member to separate council business from personal communication. Cllr King reminded members that CAPALC provides training on this subject.

066/19 Correspondence

The Clerk outlined the correspondence received since the last meeting, including the following:-

- Fenland District Council re Green Dog Walker scheme
- Play equipment inspection arranged for 6th February
- FDC Elections Officer re petition for a public election
- FDC Elections Officer re polling cards for Parish Council election

- CAPALC re Buckingham Palace Garden Party
- FDC re Pride in Fenland awards 2020
- Cllr Boden re street lighting funding proposal

Members resolved to include details of the Green Dog Walker scheme in the next newsletter to ascertain support, to issue polling cards for the election and to nominate Rex Mallett to attend the Garden Party.

067/19 Planning

No applications received.

068/19 Finance

- a) The financial statement for the period to the end of December showed income of £11,963.48 and expenditure of £18,476.28, resulting in a shortfall of £6,512.80 and balances held of £53,009.51.
- b) Members considered the draft budget for 2020/21 and resolved that the precept remain at £1,000 for a further year.
- c) To approve the following payments:

DA Gibbs (salary November and December)	£ 875.84
Mervyn Green Printers (newsletter).....	£ 55.00
ProEdge Construction (car park).....	£ 1,170.00
CGM Ltd (grounds maintenance)	£ 108.00
Emmerson Doors Ltd (fire doors).....	£ 1,210.00
Fenland District Council (new bins)	£ 599.04
	£4,018.68

RESOLVED - that the above payments totalling £4,018.68 be approved for payment.

- d) Members resolved to add the Chairman to the list of authorised signatories for the Barclays Bank accounts.

069/19 Reports from Members

- a) Highways - Cllr Hale-Smith reported that the Acting Head of Kinderley School had not agreed to purchase child-shaped no waiting signs.
- b) Street Lighting - Cllr Minney reported that two further defective lights had been reported.
- c) Churchyard - No issues to report.
- d) Trees - Cllr Carter indicated that work may be required on some of the trees in the churchyard, but this should be deferred until the closure process has run its course.
- e) Allotments - Last year's invoices can now be issued. Cllr Carter reported that drainage work may be necessary on parts of Rylands and Quaney and that he had asked a contractor to survey these sites to provide a specification and budget indication for the works. Any work will need to wait until after this year's harvest. Members agreed in principle, subject to a further discussion at July's meeting. Cllr Carter also reported that remedial work was necessary on the Quaney intake, which he is able to undertake using borrowed machinery. Members approved this work and thanked Cllr Carter for his offer.
- f) Foul Anchor - Nothing to report.

- g) Community Centre - Cllr Carter reported that Rex Mallett has retired from the role of Chairman of the Community Centre Management Committee and Cllr Carter has taken his place. The new fire doors have been fitted.
- h) Waterway Walk - The path will be closed for the month of February again this year to maintain its status as a permissive walkway.
- i) Cllr Maxwell reported that Mr Luck has agreed to join the editorial team for the newsletter. Cllr Hillam enquired whether the Council has considered creating a Facebook page. The Clerk expressed concern about some of the negativity on the village Facebook page. Members decided not to pursue this at the present time.

070/19 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 12th March in the Community Centre, Broad Drove East, commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm